GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1257
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Identification and Restoration of Heritage Sites
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement any project for identification and restoration of heritage sites and tourist spots in the country to attract more tourists;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for security of these historically important sites;
(c) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for inclusion of tourist spots in the said project and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has reviewed the policy of security for the domestic and foreign tourists in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government is considering to formulate new National Ranking System for tourist spots in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): For development of tourism infrastructure including heritage sites and tourist spots in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced two new schemes in 2014-15 i.e. Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits and PRASAD- Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive. Under Swadesh Darshan scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit & Heritage Circuit and under PRASAD scheme also, thirteen cities have been identified for development, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwarka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna.

The security of historical sites in the country is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The details of projects sanctioned under both the schemes are annexed.

(d): In order to ensure the safety and security of domestic and foreign tourists in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps:

(i) The Ministry has launched the 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline in 12 languages including Hindi & English on 08.02.2016. This service is available on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363. The Helpline provides support service in terms of providing information relating to Travel & Tourism in the country and assist the callers with advice on action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India and if need be, alert the concerned authorities.
(ii) All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists.
(iii) The Ministry has granted Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) on pilot basis.
(iv) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents happening involving foreign tourists, Ministry regularly posts an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org for the safety and security of women tourists.
(v) The Ministry has formulated the Guidelines on Safety and Security of Tourists for the State Governments/Union Territories and Tips for Travellers. These guidelines have been offered to State Government/Union Territories and other relevant authorities to stress the importance of Safety and risk management, assist in identifying best practices and encourage closer cooperation of various agencies.

(e): The Ministry has no scheme for ranking of tourist spots in the country.
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